

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 105759
ORIGIN EB-08

INFO OCT-01 ARA-14 ISO-00 CAB-05 CIAE-00 COME-00
DODE-00 DOTE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 FAA-00 L-03 /041 R

DRAFTED BY EB/OA/AVPGGGRIFITHS
APPROVED BY EB/OA:MHSTYL:S
CAB:CCOLDREN
-----055009 260543Z /13

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO
INFO AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

UNCLAS STATE 105759

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR, BR

SUBJECT: CIVAIR: BAGGAGE TARIFFS

REF: RIO DE JANEIRO 0825

1. INFORMATION CONTAINED PARA 2 REFTEL CONCERNING WHAT COUNTRIES ARE USING PIECE SYSTEM AS BASIS FOR CALCULATING EXCESS BAGGAGE TARIFFS SEEMS AT VARIANCE WITH INFORMATION PROVIDED BY CAB. CAB INFORMS DEPARTMENT THAT PIECE SYSTEMS HAVE BEEN IN EFFECT WITHIN CARIBBEAN AND EUROPE FOR MANY YEARS. IN ADDITION, IATA HAS REACHED WORLDWIDE AGREEMENTS ON PIECE SYSTEMS TO AND FROM THE UNITED STATES.

2. IN 1976, THE CAB FOUND THE WEIGHT SYSTEM TO BE UNJUST AND UNREASONABLE BECAUSE, AMONG OTHER THINGS, IT USES FIRST-CLASS FARES AS BASIS FOR ASSESSING EXCESS BAGGAGE CHARGES. ALTHOUGH THE CAB IS RECEPTIVE TO FARE INCREASES WHERE
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WARRANTED, THE BOARD IS VERY RELUCTANT TO APPROVE INCREASES IN FIRST CLASS FARES AT THIS TIME AS LONG AS EXCESS BAGGAGE TARIFFS ARE BASED ON THE WEIGHT SYSTEM. A RECENT CAB ORDER (ORDER 78-2-106) ON THIS ISSUE IS BEING POUCHED.

3. ACTION REQUESTED: CONGEN RIO REQUESTED TO PASS INFORMATION IN PARA 1 OF FOREGOING TO APPROPRIATE BRAZIL-

IAN AUTHORITIES. DEPARTMENT HOPES THIS CAN BE DONE WITHIN
CONTEXT OF CONTINUING A LOW-KEY DIALOGUE WHEREIN USG TRIES
TO PERSUADE GOB OF MERITS OF PIECE SYSTEM OVER WEIGHT
SYSTEM.

4. COMMENT: DEPARTMENT RECOGNIZES THAT REVENUE IS A
PRIMARY FACTOR IN THIS ISSUE SINCE WEIGHT SYSTEM PROVIDES
MORE REVENUE TO THE AIRLINES. HOWEVER, WHAT IS A POTENTIAL
GAIN FOR VARIG MAY BE A LOSS FOR BRAZIL, SINCE SOME TOUR-
ISTS MAY CURTAIL THEIR SPENDING PLANS IN BRAZIL DUE TO THE
STIFFNESS OF THE EXCESS BAGGAGE WEIGHT CHARGES. VANCE

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